

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANAA 00393 041136Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 SSC-01 (ISO) W

----- 110138

R 040950Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3379

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, YE

SUBJ: APPOINTMENT OF NEW CABINET

REF: SANAA 368

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT IRYANI HAS APPOINTED EIGHTEEN-MEMBER NEW CABINET: FOUR OF LEAST EFFECTIVE MINISTERS (HEALTH, LOCAFF., INFO, WAQF) DROPPED AND APPOINTED AS ADVISERS TO PRIMIN. NINE NEW MINISTERS APPOINTED TO FILL THESE FOUR SLOTS PLUS THREE VACANT AND TWO NEW POSITIONS. MAJOR APPOINTMENTS ARE ABDALLAH AL-ASNAG TO BE FONMIN, HAMUD BAYDAR AS MININT AND DR. IRYANI AS MINSTATE FOR DEVELOPMENT. MAJOR SURPRISE, APPARENTLY LAST MINUTE CHANGE, IS AHMAD ABDU SA'ID AS MINCOMMO, NOT MINECON AS EXPECTED. PROMINENT ADENI BASINDWAH ADDED TO CABINET. NUMBER OF OTHER MINISTERS HAVE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANAA 00393 041136Z

CHANGED POSITIONS. WE DO NOT VIEW CHANGES AS INDICATING ANY

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATIONS IN YARG POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. BY REPUBLICAN DECREE DATED MARCH 2 PRESIDENT IRYANI HAS APPOINTED NEW CABINET UNDER PRIMIN DESIGNATE DR. HASAN MAKQK. WHILE CHANGES ARE MORE EXTENSIVE THAN ANTICIPATED, THEY LARGELY INVOLVE RESHUFFLING OF POSITIONS WITH ADDITION NUMBER WELL-KNOWN FIGURES PREVIOUSLY OUTSIDE CABINET PLUS THREE RELATIVE UNKNOWNNS (HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS).

3. LIST OF NEW CABINET IN ORDER PUBLISHED BY DECREE IS AS FOLLOWS. FORMER POSITION LISTED IN PARENTHESES:
(BRIG) ABD AL-LATIF DAYFALLAH - MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS
(MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS)
(USTAZ) AHMAD ABDU SA'ID-MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS
(MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT)
(USTAZ) MUHAMMAD AN'AM GHALIB - MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND HIGHER EDUCATIONS (ADVISER TO CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION)
(QADI) MUHAMMAD AL-HAJJI - MINISTER OF JUSTICE (NO CHANGE)
(ENGINEER) MUHAMMAD AHMAD AL-JUNAYD - MINISTER OF FINANCE
(NO CHANGE)
(DR) MUHAMMAD ABD AL-WUDUD - MINISTER OF HEALTH (PHYSICIAN)
(USTAZ) ALI LUFT AL-THAWR - - MINISTER OF ECONOMY
(MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER)
ABDALLAH HAMRAN - MINISTER OF STATE FOR PRESIDENCY AFFAIRS
(NO CHANGE)
SALAH AL-MASRI - MINISTER OF STATE (NO CHANGE)
ABD AL-JABBAR AL-MUJAHID -MINISTER OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION
(MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE)
(DR.) ABD AL-KARIM AL-IRYANI - MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT, IN ADDITION TO BEING PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION
(FORMERLY ONLY CPO PRESIDENT)

(COL) HAMUD BAYDAR - MINISTER OF INTERIOR (VACANT POST)
(ASST TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ARMED FORCES)
MUHAMMAD SALIM BASINWAH- MINISTER FOR SOCIAL, LABOR AND YOUTH AFFAIRS (NEW POST) (EX ADENI FLOSY LEADER, UNOFFICIALLY DEPUTY OF ASNAG FOR PDRY MATTERS)
(ENGINEER) .UTAHHAR AL-NADHIR - MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (UNKNOWN)
(USTAZ) AHMAD AL-HANNI -MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS (NEW POST)
(FORMERLY WITH UNDPFW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANAA 00393 041136Z

(COL.) YAHYA MUSLIH - MINISTER FOR SUPPLY (VACANT POST)
(PROMINENT CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPUTY)
AHMAD JABIR AFIF - MINISTER OF EDUCATIONS (NO CHANGE)

4. CAPSULE COMMENTS ON APPOINTMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
A. MINPUBWORKS DAYFALLAH FORMER ARMY OFFICER WITH LITTLE TRAINING. HOWEVER HE HAS BEEN IN GOVT FOR LONG TIME AND WAS FORMERLY IN THIS POST. SHOULD BE AT LEAST marginally EFFECTIVE.

B. MINCOMMO SA'ID - UNTIL FINAL DAY HE HIMSELF HAD EXPECTED TO TAKE OVER ECONOMY FROM ASNAG. APPOINTMENT AS MINCOMMO SEEMS STEP DOWN, ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT HE WILL CONTINUE HIS ACTIVE POLITICAL ROLE.

C. MININFO GHALIB - AMERICAN TRAINED ECONOMIST, WAS MINECON IN MID TO LATE SIXTIES. IN ECLIPSE RECENTLY, REPORTEDLY DUE TO DRINKING PROBLEM.

D. MINJUSTICE HAJJI - INSIGNIFICANT TRADITIONAL PERSONALITY.

E. MINFINANCE JUNAYD - KEY FIGURE IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. QUIET, HARD-WORKING, HONEST, COMPETENT.

F. MINHEALTH ABD AL-WUDUD - YOUNG TAIZ PHYSICIAN WITH GOOD REPUTATION BUT LITTLE EXPERIENCE.

G. MINECON THAWR - EXPERIENCED BUSINESSMAN BUT WITH ONLY TRADITIONAL LOCAL EDUCATION.

H. FONMIN ASNAG - LEADING ADENI IN GOVERNMENT. WELL-KNOWN AS SAVVY INTELLIGENT POLITICIAN.

I. MINSTATE HAMRAN - HANDLES UNITY AFFAIRS AS PRESIDENT'S REP
SENTATIVE. CONSIDERED PDRY SYMPATHIZER.

J. MINSTATE MASRI - CABINET'S PERENNIAL TOKEN ROYALSIT.

K. MINLOCAFF MUJAHID - TAIZ BUSINESSMAN. NOTORIOUSLY CORRUPT AND INCOMPETENT AS MINAGR.

L. MINSTATE IRYANI - KEY DEVELOPMENT FIGURE. ASTUTE, HONEST, EXTREMELY HARD WORKING. HAS INSISTED ON REMAINING CPO HEAD, MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT JOB.

M. MININT BAYDAR - WAS MEMBER OF YEMENI NATIONALIST FACTION (PRES. IRYANI, NU'MAN, AMRI ETC) IMPRISONED BY EGYPTIANS IN 1967. FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF. CONSIDERED WEAK, WILL PROBABLY LEAVE CONTROL OF MINISTRY IN HANDS HIS DEPUTY, BRIG. MUHAMMAD SALIH AL-KUHALI. SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE, HOWEVER, TO PRESIDENT'S WISHES.

N. MIN SLY AFF BASINDWAH - AS NOTED, NUMBER TWO IN LOCAL ADENI COMMUNITY TO ASNAG. BRIGHT AND BELIEVED LOYAL TO ASNAG PERSONALLY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SANAA 00393 041136Z

O. MINAGR NADHIR - COMPLETE UNKNOWN.

P. MIN MUN AFF HANNI -FORMERLY WITH UNDP YEMEN.

Q. MINSUPPLY MUSLIH -FORMER ARMY OFFICER. CLOSE TO DEP CIC CO. HAMDI. BRIGHT AND ENERGETIC DEPUTY IN ASSEMBLY.

R. MINEDUC AFIF. - LEADING LEFTIST IN GOVT. BELIEVED CORRUPT.

5. FOUR MINISTERS DROPPED (HEALTH, LOCAFF, INFO AND WAQF) WERE SOME OF MOST CORRUPT AND INCOMPETENT MINISTERS. THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN SINECURES AS ADVISERS TO PRIMIN MAKKI SO THAT THEY REMAIN ON PAYROLL.

6. PRIMIN ALSO APPOINTED NEW CHAIRMAN OF YEMEN BANK. HE IS MUHSIN AL-SIRRI, IRISH-TRAINED (DUBLIN U.) ECONOMIST WHO WAS FONMIN AND MINECON IN 1966-67. HE HAS BEEN IN ALMOST TOTAL ECLIPSE IN MINER BANK POSIVTION DUE TO SEVERE ALCOHOLISM.

7. GENERAL COMMENT. ALTHOUGH SHUFFLE IS MORE EXTENSIVE THAN ANTICIPATED, WE DO NOT VIEW CHANGES AS HERALDING ANY SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION IN GOVT POLICY. APPOINTMENTS OF ASNAG AND DR. IRYANI, WHO ARE KEY INDIVIDUALS AND WITH WHOM WE HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONS, IS DEFINITE PLUS. MOVE OF SA'ID TO LESS DESIREABLE MINCOMMO SLOT AND APPOINTMENT MINECON THAWR UNFORTUNATELY SOMEWHAT WEAKEN YARG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM. WE WOULD EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT SA'ID WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE CLOSE ACCESS TO PRESIDENT AND CONTINUE HIS ACTIVE ROLE IN YARG.

8. SINCE SAUDI EMBASSY HERE IS DOWN TO THIRD SECRETARY WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ELICIT ANY MEANINGFUL COMMENT ABOUT SAG REACTION TO NEW GOVT. FORMER PRIMIN HAJRI, OF COURSE, REMAINS AS REPUBLICAN COUNCIL MEMBER WITH SUPERVISION OVER FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS. THIS PRESUMABLY MEANS HE WILL WATCH ER USE OF SAG
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANAA00393
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SANAA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740370/aaaacndh.tel
Line Count: 181
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANAA 368
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <09 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPOINTMENT OF NEW CABINET
TAGS: PGOV, YE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005